

RTA Newsletter

September 2022

Welcome Back!

We are two weeks into another challenging school start-up, and it is important to recognize the professionalism, flexibility and understanding that all of you have demonstrated through this period. I encourage you all to be kind to yourselves and give yourselves permission to do what it takes to manage your workload in a healthy and sustainable way. This is most definitely a marathon and not a sprint, we have only just got through the first few checkpoints, with no finish line in sight.

When you think of wellness, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Is it taking care of a pet and snuggling them? Could it be snuggling up with a delightful book by the fire? How about getting outside with family and /or pets and taking in some natural beauty? There are no right or wrong answers when it comes to wellness. Wellness can be served by what makes you happy. Please take care of yourself and each other.

Monday September 19, 2022

School District No. 19 (Revelstoke) schools will be closed on Monday, September 19, 2022. Premier John Horgan issued a statement this week in response to the federal government declaring a national holiday to mark the Queen's funeral.

The decision by Prime Minister Justine Trudeau to declare the Queen's funeral a national holiday of mourning and awarding a day off to all federal government employees has created much confusion in BC. Ottawa's move triggered CUPE "me-to" clauses that automatically gives them any new days off awarded by the federal government to its workers.

So, janitors, bus drivers, secretaries and education assistants automatically got the Queen's funeral as a holiday because their union, CUPE, had contract language to match the federal holiday. But BC Teachers do not have any "me-to" clauses in the current contract. The provincial government had no choice to but to close schools because BC teachers could not run the schools without CUPE support staff.

RTA General Meeting – September 26

An in-person RTA General Meeting is scheduled for Monday September 26 at 4:00 pm in the RSS library. We will be joined by **Carole Gordon**, BCTF 1st Vice-President for a provincial bargaining update. We will also be acclaiming a new RTA Professional Development Chairperson. Hope to see you at the meeting.

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Jennifer Ausman, Brendan MacIntosh, Georgia McLay, Christine Sylvain, and Jeremy Weddell** to the RTA. Jennifer is teaching French at RSS. Georgia is teaching part-time at RSS and TTOC. Christine is the new Band/Prep teacher at our elementary schools. Brendan and Jeremy have recently been hired to our TTOC list and we look forward to seeing them in our schools.

Pro-D Information

Coming up soon on **Friday, October 21st** is our Provincial Specialist Association (PSA) day. You can find links to all the conferences here www.psaday.ca.

Thanks to Tammy Tomm for putting her name forward for Pro-D Chairperson. Also, thanks to the Pro-D committee for putting together a great local Pro-D Day on Sept. 1st. The work this committee does is essential in providing Pro-D opportunities for our members. If you have suggestions for future offerings, please let your school-based Pro-D rep know.

All teachers on temporary or continuing contracts on Sept. 30th will receive \$320 in their individual Pro-D accounts (pro-rated for FTE). By mid-October school Pro-D reps will have updated balances for teachers' individual PD accounts.

Did you know that all temporary and continuing teachers have a TTOC Bank Day they may use for Pro-D activities? All you need to do is fill out a PD form indicating the activity and that you will be using your bank day.

RTA Executive Committee 2022-2023

Thanks to everyone who will be serving on our executive committee this year. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our executive committee

Table Officers

President – Barry Rourke (RTA Office)

Vice-President – Unfilled (TBA)

Secretary – Michelle Gadbois (AHE)

Treasurer – Unfilled (TBA)

Officers

Local Representative – Jason Stevens (RSS)

Aboriginal Education Chairperson – Erin England (RSS)

Bargaining Chairperson – Jeff Colvin (RSS)

Health and Safety Chairperson – Victoria Strange (CPE)

Professional Development Chairperson – Tammy Tomm (BVE)

Social Justice Chair – Sarah Newton (BVE)

TTOC Chair – Kirby Miller (TTOC)

Local Election Contact – Rory Luxmoore (RSS)

Staff Representatives

Gabriella Draboczi – Arrow Heights Elementary

TBA – Begbie View Elementary

Jillian Russell – Columbia Park Elementary

Stacie Grim – Revelstoke Secondary School

Jeff Wilson – Revelstoke Secondary School

Are You a Numbers Person?

The RTA is currently without a treasurer. Can you balance a chequebook? How about balancing accounts with simple software? If so great! If not, it is easy, and you would receive guidance. The treasurer attends monthly executive committee meetings, assists the president with monthly account reconciliation and building the annual budget for the RTA. If you are interested or would like to chat about the position, please give Barry a call or an email.

Are You Getting Preparation Time?

It is important to check your teaching assignment with your administrator at the start of each year to ensure you are getting the correct amount of preparation time. Full-time elementary teachers shall receive 110 minutes of preparation time per week. Part-time teachers whose teaching assignment is at least .4 FTE shall receive pro-rated preparation time or payment in lieu of preparation time. Such decision shall be made by the Board, after consultation with the teacher. Preparation time shall be in periods of not less than thirty (30) minutes. Please check with your administrator or Staff Rep if you are unsure.

Contacting the RTA

Do not hesitate to call, text (250.837.2255) or email Barry rtapresident19@gmail.com. Please make sure the RTA has your personal email to receive valuable information like this newsletter.

RTA Newsletter Challenge

Thanks for reading the newsletter! As always there is a newsletter challenge question designed to help you become more familiar with our contract and other related issues. The names of all of those who submit a correct answer by Sunday, September 19th will be entered into a draw. **Three** lucky winners will each receive a **\$25** gift card from one of four locations (**Southside Market, Save-On-Foods, La Baguette, or Modern Bakeshop & Café**).

September's newsletter has two questions.

Question 1: "What BCTF Executive member will attend our next RTA General Meeting?"

Question 2: "How much is the honorarium for an RTA member who presents a workshop to colleagues on a Pro-D Day?"

The following link will help you answer question 2 ([RTA Website](#)).

Email your two answers and gift certificate choice to rtapresident19@gmail.com by **Sunday, September 18th**.

Have a great weekend!

